

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A ~~system~~ proxy server for providing fault tolerance in a network telephony system, comprising in combination:

a receiver operable to receive a first signaling message from a first network entity via a network, wherein the first signaling message is transmitted from the first network entity to initiate a call with a second network entity;

a transmitter operable to transmit a second signaling message to ~~[[a]]~~ the second network entity via the network to initiate the call with the second network entity;

an address resolver operable to determine the second network entity to which the second signaling message is to be transmitted; and

an assembler operable to modify the first signaling message to obtain the second signaling message by adding at least a path attribute including at least one network address corresponding to a backup proxy server such that the second signaling message used to initiate the call with the second network entity includes the at least one network address corresponding to the backup proxy server.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ proxy server of Claim 1, wherein the network telephony system is an Internet Protocol (IP) telephony system.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ proxy server of Claim 1, wherein the network telephony system is an (Internet Protocol) IP telephony system in which calls are

signaled according to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) signaling protocol, and wherein the first and second signaling messages are SIP messages.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ proxy server of Claim 3, wherein the path attribute includes an AlternatePath tag.

5-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ proxy server of Claim 1, wherein the receiver, the transmitter, the address resolver, and the assembler compose a SIP proxy server.

11-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for providing fault tolerance in a network telephony system, comprising:

performing at a proxy server the functions comprising in combination:

receiving a first signaling message from a first network entity via a network, wherein the first signaling message is transmitted from the first network entity to initiate a call to a second network entity;

determining ~~[[a]]~~ the second network entity to which a second signaling message is to be transmitted to initiate the call with the second network entity;

modifying the first signaling message to obtain the second signaling message by inserting at least a path attribute[[,]] ~~wherein the path attribute includes~~ including at least one network address corresponding to a backup proxy server such that the second signaling message used to initiate the call with the second network entity includes the at least one network address corresponding to the backup proxy server; and

transmitting the second signaling message to the second network entity via the network.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the network telephony system is an Internet Protocol (IP) telephony system.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the network telephony system is an (Internet Protocol) IP telephony system in which calls are signaled according to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) signaling protocol, and wherein the first and second signaling messages are SIP messages.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the path attribute includes an AlternatePath tag.

22-26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) A computer readable medium including instructions for executing the method of Claim 18.

28-43. (Canceled)